THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. DAP has been decontrolled since 24-8-1992 and its imports have been decanalized with effect from 17-9-1992. However, the Government determines the Maximum Retail Prices (MRP) and the rates of Concession for indigenous and imported DAP under the Concession Scheme of the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation. The indigenous producers of DAP are at a disadvantage as the raw materials/intermediates required for its production are not available in the country. To compensate for this disadvantage, rate of concession for indigenous DAP is pegged at a higher level than that of imported DAP. For 1999-2000, the Government had fixed concession of Rs. 4600 per metric tonne (provisional) for indigenous DAP and Rs. 3200 per metric tonne for imported DAP. At these rates of concession, indigenous production has been 38.58 lakh metric tonnes which is higher than the target of 37.25 lakh metric tonnes for 1999-2000. Imports in the same period have been nearly 33 lakh metric tonnes. Thus the domestic production has not suffered despite the high level of imports.

In the market place both indigenous and imported DAP are sold at a competitive price. The Government role is to put in place the policy which spurs both the indigenous production and imports. The selling price to farmers is a function of demand and supply.

The Government has not received any representation regarding dumping of DAP by foreign suppliers in the country nor has the industry been of the view that there has been dumping of DAP.

Indian Railway Infrastructure Development Fund

*572. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL : Will the Minster of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Ministry propose to costitute an Indian Railway Infrastructure Development Fund for crucial asset replacement needs of Indian Railways;

(b) whether any consultation between the Railway Ministry and Planning Commission has taken place so far in this regard;

(c) if so, with what result and the actual total amount required for RIDF; and

(d) in what manner Railways hope to mop-up such huge fund after taking into account budgetary support during 2000-2001 ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMTA BANERJEE) : (a) There is no proposal to constitute Indian Railway Infrastructure Development Fund at present.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Postings at Central Laboratory, Safdarjung Hospital

*573. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that senior laboratory technicians of Central Laboratory who are on the verge of retirement, have been put on hard duties such as night and emergency duties in Safdarjung Hospital;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a new Central Laboratory has been created by merger of small laboratories viz. Bio-chemistry, at Safdarjung Hospital;

(c) if so, the position of the staff of these small laboratories;

(d) whether any representation has been received from the employees; if so, the action taken thereon; and

(e) the details of welfare measures taken at Safdarjung Hospital for senior employees ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM) : (a) All Laboratory Technicians are put on shift duties round the clock.

(b) A new centralised emergency laboratory service has been set up since 1-11-99 to provide single window investigation facilities to the Patients beyond the routine hours; without merger of laboratories including that of Bio-chemistry.

(c) The staff of various laboratories are working as usual.

(d) A representation has been received from one Senior Lab. Technician for exemption from shift duties but the request could not be acceded to in view of the fact that all staff members are considered at par and are expected to perform duties in emergency services.

(e) There is no seperate welfare scheme for senior employees.